

**DISTRIBUTED SWITCHING PLATFORM AND  
METHOD OF OPERATING THE SAME**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A distributed switching platform coupled to an Internet  
5 Protocol (IP) network and a method of operating the same. In one  
embodiment, the distributed switching platform includes a main  
control unit (MCU), coupled to the IP network, that generates call  
and control processing commands. The distributed switching  
platform also includes a switching partition coupled to the IP  
10 network. The switching partition includes an input-output  
distributor (IOD) and a circuit-switched matrix and line interface,  
coupled to the IOD, that provides an interface to a plurality of  
access nodes. The IOD conveys the call and control processing  
commands to the circuit-switched matrix and line interface to allow  
15 the circuit-switched matrix and line interface to control access to  
the plurality of access nodes.